Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Original) An oil-based ink for a ball-point pen comprising at least a colorant and a resin, as well as a solvent selected from alcohols, polyhydric alcohols and glycol ethers each having a vapor pressure at 25°C of 0.001 mmHg or higher as a main solvent occupying 50% or more of the entire solvent, and satisfying at least one of the following (a) and (b):
- (a) comprising from 0.01 to 1.5% by weight of a high polymerization degree polybutyl vinylal with a polymerization degree of 900 (theoretical molecular weight of 60,000) or more, and
- (b) comprising a pigment as the colorant and polybutyl vinylal as a dispersant, said main solvent being a solvent represented by the following chemical structural formula (1)

where R¹, R², and R³ each represents independently H or CH₃.

2. (Original) The oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen according to claim 1, wherein in the case of (a) described above, the glycol ether is represented by the following chemical structural formula (1)

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc}
R^{1} & H & \\
 & | & | \\
 & CH_{3} - C - CH_{2} - C - R^{3} \\
 & | & | \\
 & OR^{2} & OH
\end{array} (1)$$

where R¹, R², and R3 each represents independently H or CH₃.

- 3. (Currently Amended) The oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the colorant is a pigment or a pigment and a dye used in combination.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen according to <u>claim 1</u> any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein in the case of (a) described above, polyvinyl butyral with a polymerization degree of 900 (theoretical molecular weight of 60,000) or less is further used as a pigment dispersant.
- 5. (Original) The oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen according to claim 4, wherein polyvinyl butyral with a polymerization degree of 200 or more and 500 or less (theoretical molecular weight of from 10,000 to 30,000) is used as said pigment dispersant.
- 6. (Currently Amended) The oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen according to <u>claim 1</u> any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein a neutralization product of a phosphate ester is contained as an additive.

- 7. (Original) The oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen according to claim 1, wherein in the case of (b) described above, the polyvinyl butyral has an average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 30,000.
- 8. (Currently Amended) The oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen according to claim 1 or 7, which has an ink viscosity at 25°C of from 500 to 3,000 mPa·s.
- 9. (Original) An oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen comprising at least a colorant, a resin, and from 0.01 to 1.5% by weight of a high polymerization degree polyvinyl butyral with a polymerization degree of 900 (theoretical molecular weight of 60,000) or more, and further comprising a solvent, as a main solvent, selected from alcohols, polyhydric alcohols and glycol ether each having a vapor pressure at 25°C of 0.001 mmHg or higher in an amount of 50% or more based on the entire solvent.
- 10. (Original) An oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen comprising at least a pigment and a polyvinyl butyral as a dispersant and, further, comprising a solvent, as a main solvent, represented by the following chemical structural formula (1)

where R¹, R², and R³ each represents independently H or CH₃.

- 11. (Currently Amended) An oil-based ball paint pen comprising an oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen as set forth in <u>claim 1 any one of claims 1 to 10</u>, and a back-flow-preventive mechanism provided to a joint portion for connecting a tip and an ink containing tube.
- 12. (Original) The oil-based ball paint pen according to claim 11, wherein an ink follower is further provided at a rear end portion of the ink composition in the ink containing tube to prevent ink evaporation and back flow.